

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2 and 6 without prejudice, and amend claims 1, 3-5, and 7.

The status of all claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A money identifying method, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a surface image of money coin;

determining center coordinates of the coin on the basis of the obtained surface image;

extracting from the obtained surface image a previously set particular threshold calculation range of the obtained surface image containing a feature area of the coin subject to judgment and not containing a background, on the basis of the determined center coordinates;

determining a density histogram of the extracted threshold calculation range;

calculating a binary threshold value for binarizing from the determined density histogram by a discriminating analysis;

binarizing the obtained surface image of the money coin on the basis of the calculated binary threshold value; and

identifying the money coin based on the binary binarized image.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The money identifying method according to claim 21, wherein the money is a coin, and wherein the step of extracting the threshold calculation range is performed by further comprising:

determining center coordinates and a radius of the coin on the basis of the obtained surface image; and

wherein the step of extracting the threshold calculation range is performed by extracting the an image of the predetermined area an area of the threshold calculation range on the basis of the determined center coordinates and radius.

4. (Currently Amended) A money identifying device, comprising:
image obtaining means for obtaining a surface image of money a coin;
extracting means for determining center coordinates of the coin on the basis of the surface image of the coin obtained by the image obtaining means and extracting an from the surface image of a previously set particular threshold calculation range of the surface image of the money obtained by the image obtaining means containing a feature area of the coin subject to judgment and not containing a background, on the basis of the determined center coordinates;

binary threshold calculation means for determining a density histogram of the an image of the threshold calculation range extracted by the extracting means and calculating a binary threshold value for binarizing from the determined density histogram by applying a discriminating analysis;

binarizing means for binarizing the surface image obtained by the image obtaining means using the binary threshold value calculated by the binary threshold calculation means; and

identifying means for identifying the moneycoin on the basis of the binary image binarized by the binarizing means.

5. (Currently Amended) The money identifying device according to claim 4, wherein the image obtaining means comprises:

lighting means for illuminating a surface of the moneycoin; and
image-pickup means for taking a picture of the surface of the moneycoin illuminated by the lighting means.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The money identifying device according to claim 64, wherein ~~the money is a coin, and wherein~~ the extracting means comprises:

determining means for determining the center coordinates and a radius of the coin on the basis of the surface image; and
area extracting means for extracting the image of ~~the predetermined area~~an area ~~of the threshold calculation range~~ on the basis of the center coordinates and radius of the coin determined by the determining means.